

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: GW
SUBJECT: PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF: STATE 96897

1. DCM SAW KALMANOWITCH APRIL 15 PRIOR TO LATTER'S MEETING WITH VOGEL LATER SAME DAY IN HAMBURG. VOGEL PHONED DCM APRIL 16 FROM WEST BERLIN. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS THAT AROSE.

2. DCM GAVE KALMANOWITCH LETTER AS PER REFTEL PARA 4. DCM TOLD KALMANOWITCH THAT COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR CUBA WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS LUNT-LEBRON EXCHANGE WITH CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL PARA 6). DCM ALSO CONVEYED TO KALMANOWITCH (REFTEL PARA 7) THAT DEPARTMENT IS INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH VOGEL ON SHCARANSKY. DCM EMPHASIZED THAT TALKING IN THIS CONTEXT DOES NOT MEAN NEGOTIATING. KALMANOWITCH SAID HE WOULD PASS THESE POINTS TO VOGEL.

3. THE MAINPURPOSE OF VOGEL'S PHONE CALL WAS TO DISCUSS THE MECHANICS OF THE THOMPSON-NORMAN-MIRON MARKUS EXCHANGE. HE SAID HE HAD GIVEN KALMANOWITCH THE DETAILS ON WHERE MARKUS WOULD BE DELIVERED AT THE
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MOZAMBIQUE-SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER APRIL 23. HE UNDERSTANDS CONGRESSMAN GILMAN MAY WANT TO BE PRESENT WITH KALMANOWITCH AND MARKUS'S WIFE, FOR MARKUS HANDOVER AT THE BORDER. HE (VOGEL) WOULD NOT BE PRESENT.

4. VOGEL GAVE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE THOMPSON-NORMAN EXCHANGE. IT COULD BE DONE AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE, BUT

HE DID NOT FAVOR THIS BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE HARD TO AVOID PUBLIC NOTICE. ANOTHER WAY WOULD BE TO TAKE THOMPSON BY S-BAHN FROM WEST TO EAST BERLIN (FRIEDRICHSTRASSE STATION). VOGEL WOULD HAVE NORMAN WAITING ON THE PLATFORM AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE AND HE COULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO WEST BERLIN. STILL ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, AFTER BRINGING THOMPSON TO WEST BERLIN, WOULD BE FOR VOGEL TO TELEPHONE HIS WIFE FROM WEST BERLIN AND SHE COULD COLLECT NORMAN AND BRING HIM OVER BY CAR. VOGEL WOULD THEN TAKE THOMPSON TO EAST BERLIN. DCM SAID HE WOULD REPORT THESE POSSIBILITIES. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE THOUGHT THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE MIGHT SUIT US BEST.

5. DCM AND VOGEL DISCUSSED THE ISSUANCE OF A U.S. VISA FOR VOGEL'S TRIP TO THE U.S. THIS IS PLANNED FOR AROUND APRIL 26, WITH VOGEL-THOMPSON FLIGHT FROM U.S. AROUND APRIL 30. DCM WILL INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF VISA ISSUANCE IN EAST BERLIN, WEST BERLIN OR BONN -- DEPENDING ON VOGEL'S TRAVEL PLANS IN NEXT WEEK. NO PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED. VOGEL ASKED IF THOMPSON WILL HAVE TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR TRIP. PLEASE ADVISE.

6. DCM ASSUMES, AS DOES VOGEL, THAT U.S. MARSHAL WILL ACCOMPANY VOGEL-THOMPSON ON FLIGHT TO BERLIN, VIA FRANKFURT. PLEASE ADVISE. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY OFFICER TO JOIN PARTY IN FRANKFURT AND STAY
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WITH VOGEL UNTIL THOMPSON-NORMAN EXCHANGE HAS BEEN EFFECTED.

7. WE NOTE THAT IF THE PRESENT SCHEDULE IS FOLLOWED AND VOGEL-THOMPSON DEPART U.S. APRIL 30, THEY WILL ARRIVE IN BERLIN ON MAY 1, WHICH IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN THE GDR (AS WELL AS IN THE FRG). DCM WILL POINT THIS OUT TO VOGEL WHEN HE NEXT TALKS WITH HIM AND ASK IF IT IS LIKELY TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES IN RELEASE OF NORMAN THAT DAY.

8. KALMANOWITCH IS SCHEDULED TO SEE DCM AT NOON LOCAL APRIL 15. WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON VOGEL-KALMANOWITCH MEETING KALMANOWITCH GIVES US. VOGEL TOLD US KALMANOWITCH WILL BE IN BERLIN APRIL 19. STOESEL.

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